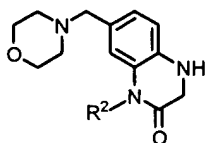


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listing of claims in the application.

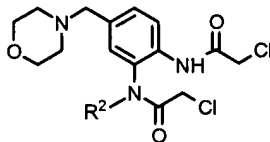
Claims 1-25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (original) A method of preparing an intermediate of formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



IV

which comprises reacting a compound of formula III or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



III

with hydroxide or alkoxide in an aqueous solvent;

wherein R² is C₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted by one to three OR³, NR³R³, aryl or het; R³ is H or C₁₋₄ alkyl; het is morpholinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, azetidyl, tetrahydrofuranyl or imidazolidinyl; and aryl is a phenyl or pyridyl radical, attached via a carbon atom, optionally substituted by one to three halogen, OR³ or NR³R³.